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Imbert Denies Political Aspirations in Dominican

Special to The Latin American Times

SANTO DOMINGO, Sept. 6 — Brig. Gen. Antonio Imbert Barrera, head of the civilian-military junta which resigned last week, disclaims political ambitions but says he will watch events closely in the Dominican Republic.

Imbert, in an exclusive interview for The Latin American Times, said he plans to return to "normal activities." "I am not a politician," he said. "I do not have political ambitions and I do not aspire to any position." However, he added that he will "keep a sharp eye on events." He said that in difficult moments he is always disposed "to assume the defense of the people's... just causes."

His only interest, said Imbert, is "the republic's future and the maintenance of its security, democracy, and liberty."

Imbert, one of two survivors of the group which assassinated dictator Rafael Trujillo, said adverse circumstances and difficulties raised by the operation prevented his government from successfully carrying out his program. The country, he said, "wants a democratic revolution to eradicate administrative corruption and privilege."

Imbert said the junta he headed undertook an energetic and honest program but was handicapped by foreign meddling. "My government tried in particular to encourage agriculture and livestock breeding. In its short administration it granted over \$4 million of credits to needy farmers," he said.

Among other junta programs Imbert mentioned a government investment of \$500,000

for pre-planting and financing tobacco, peanut, and corn production; and a law demanding a 40 per cent deposit for importation of basic foreign products and 80 per cent for luxury items.

Imbert emphasized that his junta, which resigned rather than sign the Organization of American States Reconciliation Act, was made up of "young and apolitical men who had assumed a historic responsibility towards the republic, with the single aim of unifying the democratic sectors and defending the national interest."

The OAS act cleared the way for the swearing in of Hector Garcia-Godoy's provisional government last Friday.